



# CLARION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK

Volume 36 — Issue 5 ~ May 2019

## Remembering Founding NCC Board Member And Newark's First Black Mayor Ken Gibson



Ken Gibson was a founding board member for New Community Corporation, as well as Newark's first black mayor. Photo courtesy of Tracey Battles.

Ken Gibson is best known for being the first black mayor of Newark, but he was also a founding board member of New Community Corporation. He passed away March 29 at the age of 86.

"Ken Gibson was a groundbreaker and was associated with New Community Corporation from its inception. He had a profound influence on the city and will be missed dearly," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman.

New Community Board President Dr. A. Zachary Yamba said Gibson was very dedicated to the city of Newark. Yamba said Gibson put a high priority on employment and training and was instrumental in the push to keep Essex County College in Newark

when others were trying to move it to the suburbs. Yamba also called him a gentleman mayor.

"His personality was such that he always welcomed you. He didn't push you off when you went to see him," Yamba said. "I really admired him for that. I appreciated that relationship and certainly his passing is a great loss for all of us."

Gibson spent the early part of his life in Alabama. He moved to the Central Ward of Newark with his parents when he was 8 years old. He attended Central High School and Newark College of Engineering (which is now NJIT). He was an engineering aide for the New Jersey State Highway Department, an engineer for the Newark Housing Authority and the treasurer of the United Essex Civic Association.

He first ran for mayor of Newark in 1966. He lost the race, but received a sizable amount of votes, which was encouraging enough for him to run again in 1970, when he won. Gibson served as mayor until 1986. He is the city's longest-serving mayor.

In between his first two bids for office, the Newark Rebellion took place in the summer of 1967. After that, New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri said activists focused on two areas: electing a mayor and city council that reflected the makeup of the city and improving conditions so residents could thrive.

Cammarieri explained that Gibson was involved in both of those initiatives, with politics and as a founding board member for NCC, which was incorporated in 1968.

Continued on page 11

## New Community Celebrates Retirement Of Longtime Chief Of Staff Kathy Spivey



NCC Board President Dr. A. Zachary Yamba presents NCC Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey with a rose during her retirement celebration April 25. Many colleagues, friends and family members handed Spivey roses as part of the event.

New Community has wished a fond farewell to Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey, who retired April 30 after 26 years with the organization. Family, friends and NCC colleagues celebrated Spivey's retirement April 25 at St. Joseph Plaza.

Spivey will be greatly missed at New Community, but has decided to return to Ohio to be closer to family.

"Kathy's retirement has been coming for a while but is real now. Kathy is more than a 25-plus year critical piece of NCC's progress," said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. "She was there with Monsignor Linder to help steer NCC through the ups and the downs. She was there to help me in my transition into the CEO role and weather a few of our own ups and downs. The organization will miss her guidance and I will certainly miss her always spot-on observations. At the same time I am very excited for her heading home

Continued on page 4

## Buy Your Tickets For Spring Scholarship Sweepstakes And Support The Monsignor Linder Scholarship Fund

New Community Corporation is selling raffle tickets as part of its first Spring Scholarship Sweepstakes. Supporters of New Community are encouraged to buy the raffle tickets for the chance to win prizes while also helping to bolster the Monsignor William J. Linder Scholarship Fund.

Those who purchase raffle tickets will have the chance to win one of three prizes. **First place will be a Sony 60-inch 4K Ultra High Definition TV with HDR worth \$1,200, second place will be a 64 gigabyte Apple iPhone XR worth \$1,000 and third place prize will be an Apple Watch Series 4 worth \$400.** Tickets are being sold for \$1 each.

Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will benefit the scholarship fund, which NCC Founder Monsignor William J. Linder established to help families send their children to Catholic high schools. The goal is to provide young people a good educational foundation and encourage them to continue on to college.

Children and parents have expressed their gratitude over the years, saying the scholarships allowed for them to attend a school they otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford. The scholarship fund remains in place in Monsignor Linder's memory to continue to help young people get a head start on pursuing their dreams.

The drawing for the winners will take place during Jazz Night Friday, May 24 at 10 p.m. at St. Joseph Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win a prize.

Raffle tickets for the Spring Scholarship Sweepstakes will be sold up until the drawing May 24. If you're interested in purchasing tickets or would like additional information, call 973-623-2800.

No substitution of the offered prizes will be made and no cash will be given out in lieu of prizes. Winners do not need to be present at the drawing.

We at New Community hope you participate in the Spring Scholarship Sweepstakes to support the Monsignor William J. Linder Scholarship Fund and wish you luck in the drawing!

## The New Community Clarion

The New Community Clarion is published as a community service. The editor reserves the right to withhold articles and photographs once they are submitted. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view of the newspaper.

### Publisher

New Community Corporation  
233 West Market Street, Newark, NJ 07103  
973-623-2800

### Editor, Writer and Photographer

Michelle Lang

### Graphic Design and Layout

RayZo Marketing, Inc.  
www.rayzo.com

Sign-up for the e-clarion.

Visit [www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org)



### OUR MISSION

To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement.

New Community is recognized as:

- The largest and most comprehensive community development organization in the United States
- A large-scale deliverer of comprehensive programs and services
- A leader in affordable housing and economic development
- A model among non-profit, social entrepreneurship, and CDC communities
- Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national, and global level.

## Resident Services Celebrates Administrative Professionals' Day

Members of the Resident Services Department at New Community celebrated Administrative Professionals' Day April 24 with a breakfast at department headquarters, 220 Bruce St., Newark. The group enjoyed eggs, bagels, doughnuts and fruit, along with coffee and tea.



## Around The Network

### Painting For Fun

Residents of NCC senior buildings enjoyed Paint and Sip events where they got to create artwork while socializing with their neighbors.



Hudson Senior residents show off their creations during a Paint and Sip event held April 17 and sponsored by UnitedHealthcare.



Residents of Commons Senior, 140 South Orange Ave., Newark, work on their artwork during the Paint and Sip event held in their building April 24. Photo courtesy of Donnette Burrowes-Williams.

### Week Of The Young Child At CHELC

Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, celebrated the Week of the Young Child April 8-12 with different activities each day of the week. Photos courtesy of Nelly Payen.



Chef It Up visited Community Hills Early Learning Center to teach the children how to cook.



CHELC Director Gloria Johnson poses with students during Crazy Hair Day where the children sported fun hairdos and wigs.



Residents of Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, enjoy creating artwork during the Paint and Sip event.



The Pre-K Concert with Encore Performance was held during the Community Hills Early Learning Center Week of the Young Child.

## Celebrating Easter

Associates and Manor Senior held Easter celebrations for residents in April.



Residents of Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, celebrated Easter early with a luncheon in the Community Room April 16.



Bishop Speight hosted Easter Dinner at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, April 21. Photo courtesy of Bishop Speight.



NCC staff members served Manor Senior residents for the Easter Luncheon April 16.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Michelle Grier-Porch



Michelle Grier-Porch has been a member of the New Community Security Department for nearly 30 years.

Those who enter 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, are greeted by a warm smile and a kind hello from New Community Security Officer Michelle Grier-Porch. She has worked at that building for about eight years and has been a member of the NCC Security Department for nearly three decades.

Grier-Porch first came to New Community in 1989. She was looking for a job and her sister, who was working as a secretary in the NCC Security Department, told her the department was hiring. She filled out an application and was hired as a security officer about a month later.

Over the years, Grier-Porch has worked at various sites throughout New Community, including residential buildings. She spent about

six years at New Horizons Community Charter School when New Community was involved with the school before being transferred to her current post.

“Michelle is one of the most senior members of our Security Department staff. She is well liked and respected by her peers, and her dedication to NCC shows in all aspects of her work,” said Security Operations Manager John Wade. “On behalf of the entire NCC Security Department, we congratulate Michelle for recognition well deserved.”

Grier-Porch says her role is to protect and serve New Community Corporation. Because her post is in a building that houses numerous departments and programs, she also assists the people that enter the building. She tells them where they need to go in the building and answers any questions that they have.

She very much enjoys her work.

“I love it,” Grier-Porch said. “My fellow coworkers and the people all around New Community are very nice. They treat me nice.”

Grier-Porch decided to pursue a career in security because she missed the opportunity to become a police officer, which had been her dream. Although she didn’t become a police officer, she’s able to help others in her role with

NCC.

“My favorite part of my job is helping people,” she said. “Sometimes a person can come in having a bad day. And when they come up to me and they tell me their story, I tell them they’re going to be OK. I just talk to them and walk them through it. They go upstairs, they come back downstairs and they say, ‘Thank you so much for talking to me because I was having a bad day and being that I talked to you, I’m good.’ I’m so thankful that I’m that person that can have that impact on people.”

She works in the reception area of the building from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

“I say my prayers every day when I come in and sit at the desk,” she said. “I say a prayer and I just get to work.”

Grier-Porch is a lifelong Newark resident. She has one son, two daughters, five grandsons and two granddaughters. Her grandchildren range in age from 1 to 15 years old. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her grandchildren, going to the gym to work out, dancing, singing and doing zumba.

She’s looking forward to celebrating 30 years with New Community Aug. 18 and is very grateful to the organization.

“New Community has benefitted me and my family,” Grier-Porch said. “It’s a good journey.”

## Learning About Scams And Identity Theft



New Jersey Citizen Action Bilingual Community Educator Mariela Santana explains the amount of money individuals can lose to scams and how to avoid becoming a victim.

Residents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, learned about scams meant to get their money and what to do if they are the victim of identity theft. The information was part of a workshop given by Mariela Santana, a bilingual community educator with New Jersey Citizen Action, April 15 in the Community Room. Santana handed out literature that residents can refer back to, which included ways to identify scams and contact information for the agencies to get in touch with should they become the victim of identity theft.

### NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION



St. Joseph Plaza  
233 West Market St., Newark NJ 07103  
(973) 242-8012  
[www.ncc50th.org](http://www.ncc50th.org)  
[www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org)

### Where the Music Comes Alive

MAY 2019

#### Live Entertainment & Music Calendar

Every Friday from 7 PM to 11 PM ~ Food or Beverage Purchase Required

MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

ROSALIND GRANT & FRIENDS

MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

MADAME PAT TANDY

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

UNFINISHED BIZZNESS

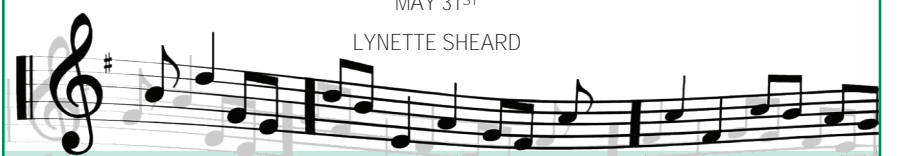
CLASSIC R&B

MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

THE PHIPPS FAMILY LIVE

MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

LYNETTE SHEARD



Our Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

# New Community Celebrates Retirement Of Longtime Chief Of Staff Kathy Spivey

Continued from page 1



NCC Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey and CEO Richard Rohrman at the retirement party in Spivey's honor April 25.

into the arms of a loving family. Thank you, Kathy. You earned this many times over.”

Spivey first came to New Community as a volunteer after meeting Founder Monsignor William J. Linder while both served on the Governor's Commission on Employment and Training. Spivey had been the Manager of Corporate Personnel Labor Relations for McDonald's Corporation and Monsignor Linder spoke with her about business operations often. He asked her to join the NCC staff a year and a half after she began volunteering. She accepted and became the Director of Staff Development and Training in January 1993. In 1996, she was promoted to Chief of Staff, a title she held until her retirement.

“For 26 years, New Community had a loyal, dedicated, valuable and dependable employee. I applaud her for her contributions to NCC for which she will be missed,” said NCC Board Member and

Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson. “As Kathy Spivey embarks on her new career, which is retirement, I wish her every happiness and joy that she will encounter.”

Working with Monsignor Linder was a highlight of Spivey's NCC career.

“Probably my favorite part was working under Monsignor. It was an education that all the money in the world could not have paid for. He was a master teacher,” she said.

Spivey also enjoyed working with her colleagues and the clients of New Community. She developed lifelong relationships over the years.

“I don't have sisters or daughters,” Spivey said. “But I have so many adopted daughters here at New Community and adopted grandchildren here at New Community. And I've got some mothers in the buildings.”

More than 100 individuals came to celebrate Spivey's long career at New Community April 25. NCC Board President Dr. A. Zachary Yamba talked about how Spivey dedicated herself to the organization and its mission.

“Throughout all these years, she's really been a credit to New Community. She loves New Community, she loves the people who are part of New Community and she loves the city,” Yamba said. “Thank you very much for being that go-to person when we had to do something. Thank you for your years of service. Godspeed and we all wish you the best.”

NCC Board Member Diane Johnson helped organize the celebration and served as the emcee. She talked about the qualities that make Spivey special and how she impacted the organization.

“You will be missed from New Community. You will be missed from the city of Newark and from New Jersey,” Johnson said. “But you're God's special flower and we want you to know that your wisdom, your love, your strength and your grace shall never be forgotten. Your journey through the lives and adventures of New Community was not a journey in vain.”

During her time at New Community, Spivey had



NCC Board Member Diane Johnson was the emcee of the retirement celebration. She talked about Kathy Spivey's special qualities.



New Community Board Members Ingrid Rasmussen, Fernando Colon and Jerome St. John with NCC Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey at her retirement celebration.



NCC Board Member Newton Richards, NCC Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey and NCC Board President Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, left to right, at Spivey's retirement celebration.



New Community Chief of Staff Kathy Spivey thanked the guests at her retirement celebration April 25.

the opportunity to travel internationally and welcome visitors from other countries to NCC. She worked closely with Monsignor Linder and the Board of Directors. She was instrumental in the development of many new buildings during her tenure, including Hudson Senior, Orange Senior, the NCC Health Care Complex and Better Life. New Community also ventured into home ownership opportunities during her employment with Community Hills and Bergen Estates.

Spivey's advice to employees is to stay focused on the mission of New Community: to help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

“The work for us is about the people we are commissioned to serve,” Spivey said. “I share with potential new employees that if you're coming here just for a paycheck, you're in the wrong place.”

## Financial Opportunity Center Helps NCCTI Student Reach Financial Goals



Ciara Cooper-Jones, who is currently enrolled in the Clinical Medical Assistant program at New Community Career and Technical Institute, is taking advantage of the services provided by the Financial Opportunity Center to help improve her credit score and save.

When students sign up for classes at New Community Career and Technical Institute (NCCTI), they not only receive a high quality, hands-on education in their field of study, but they also have access to a variety of services. One of those very useful services is the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC). The FOC helps individuals achieve their financial goals while also providing them with knowledge about credit, budgets and savings plans.

Current Clinical Medical Assistant (CMA) student Ciara Cooper-Jones is taking full advantage of the FOC. She met with Financial Coach Tamara Brown and discussed her goals of financial stability and fixing her credit, which has been lowered by student loans she has from attending a college previously.

"You can't do anything without credit," Cooper-Jones said. "My biggest goal is to be financially set and stable enough to get a house of my own. Because I don't want to always rent."

At age 21, Cooper-Jones wants to start the process of increasing her credit score and saving for the future. She has enrolled in Twin Accounts, which is a dual benefit program. It helps clients build credit and save. The program lasts for 12 months and requires the participant to put \$25 per month into a certificate of deposit (CD). Every time the payment is made on time, the participant receives a match of \$25. This is reported as an installment payment and therefore

helps build the participant's credit.

So far, Cooper-Jones has made all her payments on time.

"At the end of the program my credit score can increase and along the way I'm learning more about financial savings and stability," she said.

NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton said Cooper-Jones is taking advantage of the services available both from the FOC and the career and technical school.

"Ciara is a very forward thinking young lady who is not only committed to getting her professional career started, but she also knows the importance of establishing a long-term financial plan."

Cooper-Jones and many others are able to take advantage of services offered by NCCTI and the FOC thanks, in part, to grant money. In March, New Community Corporation received a three-year grant totaling \$190,000 from Citi Foundation and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to provide services that help job seekers increase their incomes, improve their credit and raise their standards of living.

"New Community Financial Opportunity Center owes its appreciation and gratitude to the national and local LISC offices," Brutton said. "Their technical assistance, program guidance and in-depth knowledge of operating an FOC has led to our success."

In 2018, 72 FOC clients, most of whom were NCCTI students, saw an increase in their credit scores. Financial Coach Brown, Job Developer Joseph Jean and Income Support Specialist and New Community Family Resource Success Center Director Joann Williams-Swiney work as a team to run the daily operations of the FOC. Greater Newark LISC Program Officer Jerrah Crowder has guided and assisted with the FOC to help ensure its success.

Cooper-Jones, who lives in Newark with her boyfriend and their son, has found the FOC to be very beneficial.

"This program has really given me a better understanding of the effects of credit," she said. "I would recommend it to everybody, but mostly I would say an age group of 18 to 30 only because I know once you're legal enough to sign your own papers and you don't need a parent, most people do go open

up credit cards because they want to shop. They're not thinking of a long-term goal for themselves and then they're going to be stuck when they get older because they messed up their credit at a young age."

Cooper-Jones had been in college studying nursing but left the school because of the high expense. After completing the CMA program at NCCTI, she plans to work in a facility and climb the ranks and then return to school for an additional degree or certificate.

She is working on her financial future as well as her career by participating in the FOC. Brown said Cooper-Jones' participation in the Twin Accounts program helps her to practice saving by having mandatory monthly payments, provides the opportunity to earn with the matching funds and will help raise her credit score.

"A low credit score can be a barrier to getting an apartment or a house," Brown said. "Ciara doesn't want to have to worry about a barrier."

Cooper-Jones is glad she enrolled at NCCTI for the affordably priced CMA program and the assistance with her finances that she has received.

"I feel like everyone here at NCC has been a great help. They always come with welcome arms and they're always willing to help," Cooper-Jones said. "This program overall has been a great experience so far and I just can't wait to see where it takes me."

New Community Financial Opportunity Center is funded by Greater Newark LISC, with generous support from Citi Foundation and Capital One Bank. For more information about the FOC, contact Financial Coach Tamara Brown at 973-585-9648 or [tamarabrown@newcommunity.org](mailto:tamarabrown@newcommunity.org). The FOC is located at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark.

New Community Career and Technical Institute is an accredited post-secondary school that offers the following programs: Automotive Technician, Diesel Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Clinical Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Culinary Arts Specialist and Business and Computer Technologies. Those interested in enrolling should call 973-824-6484 or visit [www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org). The school is located at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, with the Training Center that houses Automotive, Diesel and Building Trades programs located at 210 West Bigelow St., Newark.

## Job Seekers Attend Open House At St. Joseph Plaza

Farmland Fresh Dairies hosted an Open House at St. Joseph Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark, April 10 where representatives from the company's Human Resources Department were



New Community Corporation Receptionist Toshia LaBerth shows a job seeker the open positions available with NCC during the Farmland Fresh Dairies Open House.

on hand to conduct interviews for open positions and provide information for job seekers. New Community personnel were also at the event to provide information about jobs available with



A Farmland Fresh Dairies Human Resources representative gives a presentation to job seekers about the company and its open positions.

and services provided by NCC.



New Community Family Resource Success Center Director Joann Williams-Swiney provides a job seeker information about services NCC provides during the Farmland Fresh Dairies Open House.

## Social Security News

# Social Security Honors And Supports Military Members

By Ammy Plummer  
Social Security District Manager  
Springfield Avenue, Newark NJ

Every year, on Memorial Day, the nation honors service members who have given their lives for our freedom. Social Security acknowledges the sacrifice of our military's service members, and we honor these heroes and their families who may need help through the benefits we provide.

Widows, widowers and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about those benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors).

It's also important to recognize those service members who have been wounded. Social Security offers benefits to protect veterans when an injury prevents them from returning to active duty or performing other work.

Wounded military service members can also receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. For example, Social Security will expedite disability claims filed by veterans who have a 100 percent Permanent & Total compensation rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Both the VA and Social Security have disability programs. You may find that you qualify for disability benefits through one program but not the other, or that you qualify for both. Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel, including dependent children, and, in some cases, spouses, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits. You can get answers to commonly asked questions and find useful information about the application process at [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors).

Service members can also receive Social Security in addition to military retirement benefits. The good news is that your military retirement benefit generally does not reduce your Social Security retirement benefit. Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement). You may also want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html).

Please share this information with a military family who may not know about these benefits. In acknowledgment of those heroes who died for our country, those who served and those who serve today, we at Social Security honor and thank you.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Muriel Snelling



Muriel Snelling has lived at Orange Senior for the past several years.

Muriel Snelling knows New Community housing well. Though she's only lived at Orange Senior for the past several years, she was a long-time resident of Hudson Senior with her late husband. She now lives in her apartment independently and participates in activities in her building, located at 132 William St., Orange.

"Ms. Snelling is a sweet, smart lady. She is a very strong religious woman and funny too. She loves to read her Bible and other spiritual books. She is very supportive of NCC affairs and Orange Senior activities in particular," said Orange Senior Resident Services Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri. "She is always ready to help and will always ask if I need help with something. She helps the residents when they are in need and will always say her mind."

Snelling was born in Jamaica, Queens. Her mother moved her to the South when she was 5 years old to be closer to her grandparents and they then moved to Jersey City when she was 10. She stayed in Jersey City for decades, getting married and having children. After their children were grown, Snelling and her husband sold their home and moved to Hudson Senior in Jersey City. They lived there for many years before her husband passed away in January 2014.

After her husband passed, Snelling moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, where two of her children and a granddaughter were living. After living in Florida for a little over a year, Snelling decided to move back to New Jersey. Her daughter who was in Florida moved to Newark because she decided to reenter the workforce in this area and Snelling said she missed the sense of community she felt in New Jersey and also preferred the doctors she had

there.

Snelling's daughter offered to have her move in with her, but Snelling decided she wanted to be independent. So she ended up with an apartment at Orange Senior. Her former neighbors at Hudson Senior wanted her to come back to that building and still ask her to return. Although Snelling loved living there and she misses the building, she couldn't go back.

"After my husband died there, it was too much for me. It had too many memories," she said.

Snelling's husband was in hospice care in their Hudson Senior apartment for a year before he passed away in their home.

"He said, 'I've got to leave you now.' He said, 'I can't take you with me. I've got to go,'" Snelling recalled. "And he repeated, 'I can't take you with me. I've got to leave you.' Then, he just turned over and was gone."

Snelling has fond memories of her husband, who she says was always jolly. They built a life together in Jersey City and had seven children (two of whom are now deceased), many grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

She still attends church in Jersey City. Every Sunday the church bus picks her up in Orange to attend services and brings her back to her apartment.

Snelling, who is now 94, had a long career. She started working when she was a teenager to help support her mother and her four siblings, particularly when her mother became ill. She worked at a cigarette factory before her cousin introduced her to a lampshade company in Jamaica, Queens when she was 18 years old. She worked there for many years, but never gave up on her education.

She went back to school and got her high school diploma. Then later in life, after having her children, she decided to go into teaching. At age 57, she graduated from Saint Peter's College (now University) in Jersey City and worked in the Jersey City school system teaching special education until she retired at age 63. She took care of her granddaughter for three years and once she was in preschool, Snelling decided she wanted to return to teaching. The school system didn't want her to retire initially so they were happy to have her back. She went back to teaching until she retired for the second time at age 70.

While Snelling does have some health problems, she is happy to be living on her own and she's very grateful for what she has experienced.

"I've had a good life. I enjoyed my life. And I can still laugh," she said. "It makes life a lot easier to live."

Visiting Nurse Association Health & Hospice

Wellness Tip  
May 2019

## Stroke 101

On average, someone in the US has a stroke every 40 seconds.  
Did you know that an estimated 6.8 million Americans 20 years and older have had a stroke? Additionally, 80% of strokes are preventable, making stroke the number 1 preventable cause of disability.

During a stroke, every minute counts.  
Remember to use the "BE FAST" method to evaluate whether someone may be having a stroke:

B	E	F	A	S	T
Watch for sudden loss of balance.	Is there a sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes? Is the person experiencing double vision?	Ask the person to smile. Does one side of their face droop?	Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?	Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?	If you notice any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately!

For more information about VNA Health Group's services & programs, please call 800.862.3330 or visit [www.vnahg.org](http://www.vnahg.org)

## Celebrating Administrative Professionals' Day

The administrative professionals within New Community were invited to the annual Administrative Professionals' Day celebration at St. Joseph Plaza April 24. The employees got to create a piece of abstract art and enjoyed lunch and cake in their honor.



New Community CEO Richard Rohrman told the administrative professionals in attendance that he appreciated their work and hoped they enjoyed the event.



NCC Director of Mission Frances Teabout used bottles of water as a demonstration to show how stress can weigh a person down, even if it's a small amount.



## Remembering Longtime NCC Resident Marilyn Watson



Marilyn Watson was a longtime New Community resident. She passed away March 16. Photo courtesy of Samaya Holston.

Those who enter the Community Room at Associates see a tribute to Marilyn Watson, a longtime New Community resident who passed away March 16 at the age of 70. A chair sits in the room with a teddy bear and a shirt with her name to remember the neighbor and friend who participated in so many building events.

The gesture touched Watson's family members. Granddaughter Samaya Holston said she was shocked when she saw it.

"I didn't think she had left such a mark at NCC," Holston said. "And seeing that, I got emotional."

Watson was a very active individual. She participated in Associates events and trips, including health education workshops and excursions to Walmart and restaurants.

"She was a good resident and a good person," said Resident Services Coordinator Anne Moran.

Watson was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina in 1948. She later moved to Newark and graduated from West Side High School. She was married for more than 30 years to her late husband Robert Lee Watson. The pair had two children: Wayne Flanigan and Tonia Flanigan-Gunther. She had 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Holston said her grandmother was very energetic and talkative and she never missed an opportunity to take a bus trip, including to far places like Las Vegas and Georgia.

"We used to call her Queen Greyhound," Holston said. "She was real adventurous. She didn't just want to stay in the house."

Watson loved to sing and dance. She was part of a singing group with her sister in the 1970s called the Singing Stars.

She had a career in nursing, working at a nursing home in Elizabeth. She had to retire early due to the progression of lupus, which ultimately led to her passing.

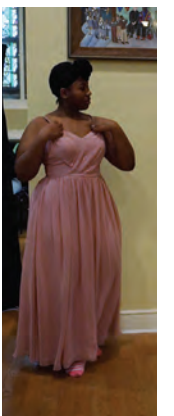
"She was always in pain but real active," Holston said.

Watson was very social in her building and enjoyed going down to the Community Room often.

"She liked NCC housing," Holston said. "Everyone knew her there."

## Picking Out Prom Gowns

New Community Corporation, in partnership with Children's Light Foundation, hosted a Prom Gown Giveaway April 2 and April 6 at St. Joseph Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark. Young women from the area were able to come and pick out dresses, shoes and accessories to wear to their prom, at no cost. They also entered into a raffle to receive free admission to their prom.





# UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

invites you to the dedication of the

## *Eric Munoz Trauma Center* Celebrating His Life and Legacy

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019 | 10:00 AM

150 BERGEN STREET, NEWARK, NJ 07103

CELEBRATORY LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
Newark, New Jersey

FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT [COMMUNITY@UHNJ.ORG](mailto:COMMUNITY@UHNJ.ORG) | 973-972-6273

## MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY 2019**

**MAY 4**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS FESTIVAL**  
Spencer Miller Community School  
66 Muhammad Ali Avenue, Newark  
**10 AM – 2 PM**  
Full day of FREE healthy fun for the entire family.  
Open to the public.

**MAY 8**  
**VOLUNTEER AT CAREER DAY**  
Thirteenth Avenue School  
359 13th Avenue, Newark  
**9 AM - 2 PM**  
Any time commitment is appreciated. It is an opportunity for you to share the tasks and responsibilities of your profession.

**MAY 10**  
**DEDICATION OF THE ERIC MUNOZ TRAUMA CENTER**  
**10:00 AM**  
150 Bergen Street, Newark ~ Inside the tent  
Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Munoz  
Open to the public.

**MAY 14**  
**DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP**  
Every Thursday  
Beginning May 14, 2019 – June 18, 2019  
**9:30 AM – 12 PM**  
205 South Orange Avenue, C-level Room 1228.  
To Register call 983-972-0856.  
Refreshments will be served.

**MAY 19**  
**NJ SHARING NETWORK 5K WALK AND RACE**  
A Cute Liver Team at Long Branch:  
<http://events.njsharingnetwork.org/goto/acuteliverLB19>  
Corporate Sponsor Code: Sponsor2019

**MAY 23**  
**VOLUNTEER AT CAREER DAY**  
Luis Munoz School for Social Justice  
663 Broadway, Newark  
**8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**  
Any time commitment is appreciated. It is an opportunity for you to share the tasks and responsibilities of your profession.

### SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 2: NJ SHARING NETWORK 5K WALK AND RACE**  
A Cute Liver Team at New Providence:  
<http://events.njsharingnetwork.org/goto/acuteliverNP19>  
Corporate Sponsor Code: Sponsor2019

**JUNE 10: UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**  
Crestmont Country Club, West Orange  
For info: [uhgolfclassic@uhnj.org](mailto:uhgolfclassic@uhnj.org)

More info: [community@uhnj.org](mailto:community@uhnj.org)

PRE-REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS



To Attend



To Volunteer



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
Newark, New Jersey

## NCC Residents Complete Diabetes Workshop

Representatives from HQSI held workshops in New Community senior buildings to teach residents about diabetes. The six-week course touched on a

variety of issues, including healthy eating, how to care for yourself and stress reduction. Residents who completed the course received certificates.



Gardens Senior residents who participated in the diabetes workshop pose with their instructor, HQSI Project Coordinator Felix Ollennu, standing second from left, and Resident Services Coordinator Sister Lucy Modester, standing center.



Residents of Roseville Senior who participated in the diabetes workshop pose with their instructor, HQSI Education Program Specialist Kenneth Fernandez, standing third from left, and Resident Services Coordinator Gladys Artis, standing third from right.



Orange Senior residents display their certificates after the final diabetes workshop with their instructor, HQSI Project Coordinator Felix Ollennu, back row standing sixth from right, and Resident Services Coordinator Sister Pauline Echebiri, back row standing right.



Those who completed the diabetes workshop at Associates with Resident Services Coordinator Anne Moran, standing second from left, and instructor Karen Hale, HQSI Outreach Coordinator, standing second from right.



Residents of Commons Senior who participated in the diabetes workshop with Resident Services Coordinator Jill DeRios, standing center. *Photo courtesy of Felix Ollennu.*



Graduates of the Spanish language version of the diabetes workshop at Douglas Homes with instructor Kenneth Fernandez, HQSI Education Program Specialist, second from left.



Alice Sewell, Sherman Gibbs and Sharese Moore, left to right, show off their certificates after graduating from the diabetes workshop at Manor Senior.



HQSI Education Program Specialist Kenneth Fernandez, left, with the graduates of the Spanish language diabetes workshop at Manor Senior April 24. *Photo courtesy of Essence Vines.*

## FSB Executive Director Participates In Kean University Panel

Executive Director of Family Service Bureau Manuela Garcia was a featured panelist at Kean University April 10 for an event titled "Influencing Change: Women Social Workers in Leadership." She joined New Jersey Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver, Assemblywoman Joann Downey and Executive Director of the National Association of Social Work of New Jersey Jennifer Thompson to discuss social work. The event was held in honor of

Social Work Month and Women's History Month, both celebrated in March. Each speaker was presented with an award for outstanding contributions to society.



Family Service Bureau Executive Director Manuela Garcia speaks during the Kean University event. *Photo courtesy of Arnold Hernandez, Office of Student Government, Kean University.*



Family Service Bureau Executive Director Manuela Garcia, third from right, with the other panelists, including Assemblywoman Joann Downey, second from left, and Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver, third from left, at the Kean University event. *Photo courtesy of Arnold Hernandez, Office of Student Government, Kean University.*

## Biking For A Cure At CHELC

Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, held its Annual Trike-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital April 12. Students brought bikes to school and were able to ride them around the cleared parking lot outside of the building. Money raised for the event goes toward cancer research.



## Family Service Bureau

# Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month

According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), “every year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition, as one in five U.S. adults will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime. However, everyone is affected or impacted by mental illness through friends and family.” May as Mental Health Month (MHM) was started 70 years ago by Mental Health America to raise awareness about mental health conditions and related issues in the United States.

Also, we can’t forget our youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, suicide is the third leading cause of death. More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza and chronic lung disease combined. It results in approximately 4,600 lives lost each year. Each day in our nation there are an average of over 5,400 suicide attempts by young people in grades 7-12. Four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs. Kids who are bullied are more than twice as likely to consider suicide, according to a recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. (Information courtesy of kids.gov, nimh.nih.gov, samhsa.gov, cdc.gov, AMA.)

Mental health is essential to everyone’s overall health and wellbeing, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. A healthy lifestyle can help prevent the onset and worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes and obesity. It can also help people recover from these conditions. Finding a reason to laugh, going for a walk, meditating, playing with a pet and other distractions can help you stay both physically and mentally healthy.

As a mental health provider agency, Family Service Bureau encounters many individuals and families on a daily basis seeking treatment and understanding of mental illness. With two locations, in Newark and Kearny, many of our clients seek treatment for depression, anxiety, ADHD, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and substance use disorders. While the same services are provided at both locations, for many years the Kearny location has provided treatment for more chronic mental health issues. Conversely, Newark clients tend to address the same issues that may be intermittent or temporary depending on the trigger for the situation.

FSB Executive Director Manuela Garcia is working with the local community to make Newark and Kearny Stigma-Free Zones with the local agencies.

### Resources

#### Animal Companionship

- [Habri.org](http://Habri.org)
- [PetPartners.org](http://PetPartners.org)
- [PetPeaceofMind.org](http://PetPeaceofMind.org)

#### Work-Life Balance

- [AskJan.org](http://AskJan.org)
- [MentalHealthAmerica.net](http://MentalHealthAmerica.net)
- [WorkFlexibility.org](http://WorkFlexibility.org)

#### Social Connection and Recreation

- [Clubhouse-Intl.org](http://Clubhouse-Intl.org)
- [Colortherapy.app](http://Colortherapy.app)
- [Inspire.com](http://Inspire.com)
- [Loveknitting.com](http://Loveknitting.com)
- [TheMighty.com](http://TheMighty.com)

#### Chronic Health Conditions & Caregiving

- [CaregiverAction.org](http://CaregiverAction.org)
- [ChoicesInRecovery.com](http://ChoicesInRecovery.com)
- [HeadsUpGuys.org](http://HeadsUpGuys.org)
- [Lung.org](http://Lung.org)
- [MoreThanMyDiagnosis.com](http://MoreThanMyDiagnosis.com)
- [WomenHeart.org](http://WomenHeart.org)

## Extended Care Thanks Volunteers



Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka, left, and Director of Activities Yonette Semple thanked all the volunteers for their time at the Volunteer Dinner.



New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, held its Volunteer Dinner April 10 to recognize and thank the many people who devote time to the residents of the facility.



Painting was part of Artsy Thursday for students.

## HHELC Celebrates Week Of The Young Child

Harmony House Early Learning Center celebrated the Week of the Young Child April 8-12 with a variety of activities, including Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday. *Photos courtesy of Sister Maurice Liguori Okoroji.*



Families were part of the Week of the Young Child at Harmony House Early Learning Center.



HHELC students learned teamwork during Work Together Wednesday.

## New Community Adult Learning Center

563 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey 07107



**(973) 558-5536**

[www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/](http://www.newcommunity.org/services/adult-learning-center/)

### Free Workshops & Services / Talleres y Servicios Gratuitos

<b>Mammograms and Pap Smear</b>  <b>Mamografía y Papanicolaou</b>	<p>Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019</p> <p>9 AM to 1 PM</p>
<b>Health Screenings</b>  <b>Exámenes de Salud</b>	<p>Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019</p> <p>9:30 AM to 1 PM</p>
<b>Eye Screenings (AVS)</b>  <b>Examen de la Vista</b>	<p>Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019</p> <p>9:30 AM to 1 PM</p>
<b>Creative Writing</b>  <b>Composición</b>	<p>June 10, 11, 12, &amp; 13, 2019</p> <p>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, &amp; Thursday 5:30 PM to 8 PM</p>

Our Mission ~ To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

Nuestra Misión ~ Ayudar a los residentes de los centros de las ciudades a mejorar la calidad de sus vidas y a reflejar la dignidad dada por Dios y sus logros personales.



## I'm Sorry, I Apologize

by Leslie Lesley

Has there ever been a time in your life where you hurt someone? Maybe you did or said something that really offended them? Deep down inside, you knew you were wrong but you justified your actions because you felt like you were actually telling the truth about the person. Or you did what you did to the person feeling like they initiated the bad behavior that you participated in. (You say, she started it!)

There are not many people who like to admit when they are wrong. Some of us have extreme difficulty doing so. Pride gets in the way. Rather than simply saying the words, "I'm sorry" or "I apologize," those guilty feelings that come with the need to make things right are sometimes too hard for us to deal with. So we find ourselves looking for ways to ease our own pain and embarrassment. We frame the apology by saying things like, "If I hurt

your feelings by what I said to you, then I apologize." This form of apology gives the impression that it was possible that what you said should NOT have hurt the person's feelings. Maybe their feelings were hurt because they took it the wrong way or they are too sensitive.

You may even tell someone that you are sorry for hurting them but something that they said earlier or at another time is the reason why you said or did what you did. (You made me do it.) In this apology you are really telling the person that they are the reason you hurt them. You take the responsibility off of yourself and place it on them.

A sincere apology is one that is heartfelt and pretty straight forward. It should acknowledge that you did something to that person that you realize caused them pain or discomfort. The apology may include asking for forgiveness but should not demand immediate exoneration. One must accept the fact that it may take time for damage to be repaired. On the other hand, once you have done all that you can to make things right, keep it moving. Life goes on.

## Rutgers Community Health Center Opening At NCC Health Care Complex And Accepting New Patients

Rutgers Community Health Center (RCHC) will be opening soon on the third floor of the New Community Health Care Complex at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark. RCHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides comprehensive primary care with integrated behavioral health services for patients of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. The health center will offer same-day walk-in appointments for sick and well-care visits.

RCHC will be open Monday through Friday with extended hours. For more information, call 973-732-6040.

## Remembering Ken Gibson

Continued from page 1

"In many ways Ken Gibson was at the intersection of these interrelated and complementary impulses: electoral political organizing and neighborhood-based community development," Cammarieri said.

After Gibson became mayor and was no longer a board member for NCC, he still kept a strong relationship with the organization. Current New Community Board Member Newton Richards said Gibson was instrumental in helping NCC further its goals.

"He was really indispensable to us. He helped in our early progress. He expedited our interests in making up for the shortage in affordable housing. And getting the first supermarket, which was Pathmark, built. Because he had contact with the state and federal government," Richards said. "He was a fantastic guy."

Current Newark Mayor Ras Baraka praised Gibson for his service both to the city and the African-American community.

"He led in a tumultuous and difficult time as the city tried to recover from the Newark Rebellion. He will be remembered in his effort to live up to his words, 'Wherever the country is going, Newark will get there first,'" Baraka said in a statement. "He set the stage for every African-American elected official in this state. We stand on his accomplishment and grow from his challenges."

Before his passing in 2018, New Community Founder Monsignor William J. Linder wrote about Gibson and how he was tied to NCC long after he left the board.

"What New Community was accomplishing made Mayor Ken Gibson very proud, considering he was an original board member. More importantly, under his leadership, New Community had prospered and gained prominent recognition," Monsignor Linder wrote. "Gibson and New Community were a winning combination."

**The New Community Clarion**  
233 West Market Street  
Newark, NJ 07103  
[www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org)

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit # 5780  
Newark, NJ

**12** **CLARION**

Volume 36 — Issue 5 ~ May 2019

Newark, New Jersey



**GOLF  
2019**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Sponsorship information  
[www.newcommunity.org](http://www.newcommunity.org)

**New Community  
Corporation**  
**25th Annual Golf Classic**  
**July 1, 2019**  
**Cedar Hill Golf &  
Country Club**  
100 Walnut Street,  
Livingston, NJ 07039



**Individual & Team Contests**

Cocktail Awards Reception & Silent Auction  
Immediately Following Golf Tournament  
For more information call 973-497-4414

NCC Mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.